VENOM®: SPACE KNIGHT 12

CIVIL WAR II

WHEN EUGENE "FLASH" THOMPSON LOST BOTH LEGS SERVING HIS COUNTRY, HE FORMED A SYMBIOTIC BOND WITH A BODY-MORPHING ALIEN PARASITE THAT ENABLED HIM TO CONTINUE HELPING OTHERS. NOW, FLASH IS SWASHBUCKLING HIS WAY ACROSS THE UNIVERSE AS

VENOM: SPACE KNIGHT

EARTH'S HEROES PREVENTED A CATACLYSMIC EVENT THANKS TO AN INHUMAN NAMED ULYSSES WHO HAS THE ABILITY TO SEE THE FUTURE. NOW, EARTH'S GREATEST CHAMPIONS ARE FORCED TO MAKE A CHOICE: PROTECT THE FUTURE...OR CHANGE IT?

FLASH IS BACK IN PHILADELPHIA TO FIND HIS FRIEND ANDREA BENTON, BEARER OF A PART OF THE VENOM SYMBIOTE KNOWN AS MANIA, ALONG WITH A HELL-MARK. FLASH CAN'T REST UNTIL HE'S DONE RIGHT BY ANDI, AND VENOM CAN'T MASTER HIS ANGER UNTIL MANIA'S BEEN CLEANSED. FLASH'S FRIENDS SET OFF TO RETRIEVE A RESTORING ELIXIR FOR MANIA, BUT THEY'VE BEEN CONFRONTED BY SPACE KNIGHTS! MEANWHILE, FLASH RAN INTO HIS OWN TROUBLE. ALTHOUGH HE WAS IN THE MIDST OF DEALING WITH ULYSSES' PREDICTIONS, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ONLY KNOWS VENOM AS A MENACE, SO HE RUSHED TO PHILLY, BELIEVING FLASH NEEDED RESCUE. A TENSE CONFRONTATION ENDED WITH VENOM ENVELOPING SPIDER-MAN!

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INSIDE THE VENOM SYMBIOTE.

NOW.

I LOVE WHAT YOU'VE DONE WITH THE PLACE, VENOM. MINIMAL, YET HOMICIDAL.
YOU ARE CALLED SPIDER-MAN?
YOU SERIOUSLY DON'T REMEMBER ME?
UM, IS IT ME, OR DID WE JUST LEAVE EARTH?
THIS IS A MEMORY. MY MEMORY.
OF MY HOME.
PLANET OF THE SYMBIOTES, HUH?
...
DO YOU CALL EARTH, "PLANET OF THE HUMANS"?
SOMETIMES.
THIS IS KLYNTAR.
I WAS BORN HERE. MY PEOPLE, WE'RE BRED TO BE AGENTS. AGENTS OF THE COSMOS.
NOT GONNA LIE, THIS ISN'T EVEN THE CREEPIEST EGG HUNT I'VE EVER BEEN ON.

MY FIRST HOST WAS... NOT WORTHY. HE CREATED A THIRST IN ME.
I WAS ADDICTED... NO...
...I AM ADDICTED... TO RAGE.
FLASH BROUGHT ME HOME.
I WAS CLEANSED...
...MY MEMORIES ERASED, SAVE THOSE OF MY FIRST HOST, WHO IS BURNED INTO MY VERY BEING.
NOW I FOLLOW FLASH'S EXAMPLE...
...I TAKE THINGS ONE DAY AT A TIME.
I AM NOT THE VENOM YOU ONCE KNEW. I WILL NOT ENTER YOUR MIND. I WILL NOT FEED ON YOUR RAGE.
WHAT? I DON'T HAVE ANY--
RESPECTFULLY, YOU ARE TEEMING WITH IT.
TEEMING WITH RAGE FOR ME.
IT IS DESERVED, I'M SURE.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA.
LITERALLY.
THAT SPOT YOU SEE OVER THERE?
IS THAT THE WAY OUT?
IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING. NOT ALL OF ME WAS CLEANSED.
IT IS THE REASON FLASH AND I ARE IN PHILADELPHIA.

NO-- VENOM, DON'T!
WAIT... WHAT...?!
LIKE RIDING A BIKE. WITH HALLUCINATIONS.
SPIDER-MAN, I CAN EXPLAIN--
IT'S ALL GOOD.
YOUR PARTNER HAD YOU COVERED.
I MAY NOT KNOW WHAT I DID TO YOU, SPIDER-MAN...
...BUT FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH...I AM VERY SORRY.
I ONLY HOPE TO EARN YOUR FORGIVENESS IN TIME, THROUGH MY ACTIONS.
WELL, DIDN'T SEE THIS COMING.
PERHAPS THE FUTURE IS NOT AS FIXED AS WE'VE BEEN THINKING LATELY.

YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT, OLD FRIEND.
ALL THIS BUSINESS WITH ULYSSES*...IT'S MADE ME MORE ON EDGE THAN I SHOULD BE.
*AS SEEN IN THE RIPPING YARN CIVIL WAR II!
EVERYBODY DESERVES A SECOND CHANCE.
I HOPE YOU'LL CONSIDER GIVING ME ONE.
ANYTHING FOR YOU, SPIDEY.
PHEW. ALL RIGHT. GUESS WE'RE NOT GONNA HAVE TO THROW DOWN AFTER--
LOOK OUT!
LOOK OUT!
JINX! BUY ME A NEW PLANE THAT YOU DESTROYED TEN MINUTES AGO.
NOW... WHO HAD TO RUIN THAT MOMENT...?

THERE-- THAT MONSTER, IT'S LIKE *HER*. SEIZE IT!
I THINK SHE'S TALKING TO YOU.

WE'VE SEEN THESE THUGS BEFORE.

OH, HEY, FLASH, YOU'RE BACK IN THERE. HOPE I LEFT ALL THE SETTINGS LIKE YOU HAD THEM.

THESE GUYS AREN'T LOOKING FOR ME OR YOU. THEY'RE LOOKING FOR--

--MANIA.

WHO?

MY... PROTÉGÉ.

AND THE CHANGES JUST KEEP ON COMING.

SHE'S POWERED BY A PART OF THE SYMBIOTE. A PART THAT DID NOT GO THROUGH THE CLEANSE.

SHE'S OUT OF CONTROL.

AND NEEDS HELP.

YOU *BOTH* NEED TO BE LOCKED AWAY AND--

SHHHHHH! THE GROWN-UPS ARE TALKING.

BOOM!

GAAAH!

RRRRRR...
THWIP!
WELL, LOOK AT US TEAMING UP LIKE CAGNEY AND LACEY. NOW, LET'S HAVE A LITTLE CHAT WITH--
WHERE IS MANIA?
SHE... SHE KEEPS TO THE SEWERS MOSTLY.
SO, WHY ATTACK THE BIG GUY HERE AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOURS TRULY?
WE WERE HOPING TO DRAW HER OUT...
...WE BROKE THE LAW, SURE, BUT...BUT THAT DON'T JUSTIFY WHAT SHE DID TO US...
...SHE'S A MONSTER.

AND SHE'LL PAY FOR-- HLSDHGJH?!
YEAH, YEAH, YEAH. I STOPPED LISTENING AFTER YOU SAID SEWERS.
HEY, IT'S UH... ME. CANCEL MY AFTERNOON.
CLIK
ALL RIGHT, VENOM, LET'S GO FIND YOUR FRIEND.
LEMME JUST GRAB MY SPARE FACE.
AND MY CONTAINMENT UNIT.
ARE YOU SURE?
SURE I'M SURE. IF WE USE THIS TO CAGE YOUR FRIEND'S SYMBIOTE THIS WHOLE THING IS A WRITE-OFF.
THANK YOU, SPIDER-MAN.
HEY, IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO FOR YOU WRAPPING ME UP BUT NOT MURDERING ME.
SO, ONCE WE FIND HER, SHE'S CLEANSED HOW, EXACTLY?
PARTLY BY BEING ABSORBED INTO THE REST OF ME, AND THEN I HAVE FRIENDS WHO ARE BRINGING AN...ELIXIR OF SORTS.
YOU HAVE FRIENDS? MAN, YOU REALLY HAVE CHANGED. WHERE ARE YOUR PALS NOW?
THEY ARE OFF-WORLD, BUT...

PLANET WENB. NOW.
"...I'M SURE THEY'LL BE HERE SOON."
WE'RE NEVER MAKING IT OFF THIS PLANET.
AT LEAST WE WILL DIE WITH HONOR.
WE WERE DOING JUST FINE BEFORE THESE SO-CALLED KNIGHTS SHOWED UP.
WE'RE NOT THE ONES WHO UNLEASHED THIS HORDE.
HOW ABOUT WE KILL THESE GUYS BEFORE WE KILL EACH OTHER?
THE SKRULL IS WISE.
AND WE WOULD HAVE UNLEASHED THE SAME HORDE OURSELVES, SINCE WE'RE BOTH LOOKING FOR THE SAME THING: AN ELIXIR FOR FALLEN COMRADES...
SO LET'S STAY ALIVE UNTIL WE FIND IT, DEAL?

"DEAL."
I LOVE THAT OLD-TOWN SEWER SMELL. IT'S LIKE THE NEW CAR SMELL, BUT AWFUL.
YOU'RE MAKING BAD JOKES. I GUESS YOU'RE BACK TO BEING THE OLD YOU AGAIN.
YEAH, THE ME YOU SAW LAST TIME WAS NOT MY BEST ME.*
THIS NEW YOU IS PRETTY DIFFERENT, TOO. WORKING FOR MY OLD PAL, PETER PARKER, AT HIS MEGA-SUCCESSFUL COMPANY?
I LEAVE THE GALAXY FOR FIVE MINUTES AND EVERYTHING CHANGES.
*IT WASN'T HIM AT ALL--IT WAS DOCTOR OCTOPUS, AS SEEN IN THE THRILLING PAGES OF SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN!
CHANGE IS GOOD, RIGHT? I MEAN, BEING OFF-PLANET DID A WORLD OF AWESOME FOR YOUR DISPOSITION.
BOTH OF YOUR DISPOSITIONS, ACTUALLY.
IT'S BEEN AMAZING. BUT...
I'VE BEEN GONE TOO LONG. WAS SO BUSY TRYING TO FIX MYSELF, I FORGOT ALL THE THINGS I HAD LEFT BEHIND.
ALL THE PEOPLE I'D LEFT BEHIND.
WE'RE GONNA FIND YOUR FRIEND, PAL.
YOU SURE ABOUT THIS PART OF THE PLAN, THOUGH?
IF HORROR MOVIES HAVE TAUGHT ME ANYTHING, IT'S THAT: (A) WHEN THE SCARY MUSIC PLAYS, YOU SHOULD RUN, AND (B) SPLITTING UP IS USUALLY A BAD IDEA.
WE'LL BE FINE, SPIDEY.
"WE" LIKE YOU AND VENOM, OR "WE" LIKE--
WE'LL ALL BE FINE.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN AGENT OF THE COSMOS AND A SPACE KNIGHT?
AS SPACE KNIGHTS, WE DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER TO ANYONE.
AND WE WOULDN'T BANISH ANYONE FOR BEING A LITTLE OFF.
WE TAKE OUR KNIGHTS AS THEY ARE.
THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE.
VENOM WASN'T BANISHED... BUT HE WAS...IMPURE. HE JUST NEEDS TO FINISH THE CLEANSE AND--
FOUND IT.
WHAT FOUL BEAST IS--
EASY, SNAKES...
...HE'S WITH US. AND HE'S THE REASON WE CAME FOR THIS ELIXIR.
WINK SORRY. WINK WANTED TO WARN MAHIA. WINK SAW MORE TROLLS APPROACHING.
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE WATCHING THE DOOR, WINK.
HOW MANY MORE?
WINK FAIRLY CERTAIN...
"...ALL OF THEM..."

ANDI'S BEEN LIVING DOWN HERE?
ANDI... I'M SO SORRY.
ARE YOU?
SHOW ME...
...SHOW ME HOW SORRY YOU ARE!
UNFF!
AAHH!
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

FIGHT BACK!
WHAM!
NO.
I DESERVE THIS, ANDI.
MY NAME IS...
WHAM!
...MANIA!
I'M SORRY, ANDI. FOR LEAVING.
AND FOR THIS...
NOW!

TIME-OUT!
AAAEEE!!!!
YAAAHH!

F...FLASH...?
I GOT YOU, KID. I GOT YOU.
AND I GOT YOU.
BOTH OF YOU.
ALL OF YOU?
VENOM AND MANIA ARE IN HERE. FOR NOW.
ARE THEY--?
READINGS ARE STABLE. BUT LET'S GET TO MY LAB.
YOU GOOD?
I AM NOW.

PARKER INDUSTRIES, PHILADELPHIA BRANCH.
AS YOU CAN SEE, WE'RE STILL GETTING SET UP, BUT YOU'RE WELCOME TO STAY HERE WHILE SHE STABILIZES. AS FOR YOUR FRIENDS...
...THEY SEEM TO BE OKAY.
Y'KNOW, FOR A PILE OF ALIEN GOO.
THE CLEANSE SEEMS TO BE WORKING.
BUT THE HELL-MARK REMAINS AN ISSUE.
MAYBE PARKER INDUSTRIES' R&D CREW CAN MAKE A TOPICAL CREAM FOR THAT.
THANKS, BUT MY FRIENDS ARE BRINGING ME WHAT I NEED. WHAT VENOM NEEDS.
SPIDER-MAN... HONESTLY, THANK YOU. AND THANK PETER FOR ME WHEN YOU SEE HIM.
IT'S ALREADY DONE.
I GOTTA GET BACK TO NEW YORK. ULYSSES HAD ANOTHER VISION.
I HOPE THIS ONE INVOLVES DESSERT. CAN'T BELIEVE I CAME ALL THE WAY TO PHILLY AND DIDN'T GET ONE TASTYKAKE...

I'M NOT LEAVING YOU 'TIL WE GET THIS FIXED.
...FLASH...
HEY, HOW ARE THINGS IN THERE?
...THE SYMBIOTE... I HAVE CLEANSED IT. BUT THE HELL-MARK...
I KNOW. TARNA AND THE OTHERS WILL BE BACK SOON. WE'LL GET YOU THE ELIXIR--
...MANIA... IT...IT'S SO AFRAID...
IT'S GOT NOTHING TO FEAR FROM US, WE'RE HERE TO HELP.
...NO, FLASH...IT...IT IS NOT AFRAID OF US...
...IT...IT'S AFRAID...

...IT'S AFRAID OF ANDI.
TO BE CONTINUED...

TONGUES ARE WAGGING

Correspondents of the Cosmos! Write to us at GALACTIC@MARVEL.COM and don't forget to mark your letters "OKAY TO PRINT"!

YOU wanted her back, WE wanted her back, and now here she is…MANIA! Big as life and extra Hell-Marky! Seems like since we and Flash last saw her things haven't necessarily gone too well for Andi. Will Flash's new friends make it to Earth in time to save Andi? We'll have to wait until next month for the answer to that question, but in the meantime, Robbie has some answers for your emails! Take it away, Robbie!

Hey VENOM team,

Just done reading issue #10 of VENOM: SPACE KNIGHT and again, I'm in awe. I loved the way you brought back Mania and are tying in an arc that I thought was lost when Agent Venom's run got canceled. It basically feels like a straight continuation from that storyline, aside from a few Guardians of the Galaxy here and there. Even though I've seen the Marvel Now 2.0 previews featuring another Venom comic, I hope it's as good as this one is shaping up to be.

With love,
The biggest Venom fan,
Robert Hammond

Hey, Robert (great name, btw), we're really glad you enjoyed issue #10 of VENOM: SPACE KNIGHT! When we first talked about making this book, one of the things we all wanted to do was call back to the great moments in Agent Venom and bring back Mania. She's important to Venom and Flash's characters, so we're excited she's back, too!

Hey guys,

I have always been a longtime fan of Venom. Seeing him become one of the good guys and watching the relationship between Flash and Venom develop over these past years has been amazing. I know there is going to be a change with Venom soon, and it may come as tough pill to swallow. Will Venom stay one of the good guys? Will we see Venom tote an assault rifle again?

We can't spoil what's to come, but there's big plans for Venom in the Marvel Universe, and tons of people working on it who love the character bringing the next version of the comic to life. Venom forever!

I just wanted to compliment the entire team working on VENOM: SPACE KNIGHT; they have crafted a mighty fine book. I am especially impressed with the artwork of Ariel Olivetti--every drawing pops!--and will be looking for his name on future titles.

I look forward to continuing the adventure each month with Venom/Flash and 803--absolutely love his "death wish" and the banter that goes with it--along with Pik Rollo and everyone else picked up along the way. Keep up the great work!

Matt McDill
Fredericksburg, VA

Thanks so much, Matt--and Ariel is the best! We're big fans of Flash's "Space Crew" as well, and sure hope 803 and the gang survive the last issue!

I just finished reading VENOM: SPACE KNIGHT #9 and just had to write and say, wow! Just wow! What a strong and powerful story! That one was truly a masterpiece; keep up the great work!

Matt McDill
Fredericksburg, VA

You sent us two letters, Matt? That means we love you twice as much! Many thanks for these kind words about VENOM. We love working on this book, so it means so much to hear it means so much to you. Thank you!

First things first. I love the Venom character in and of itself, but I've had a hard time finding comic book stores in Denmark. Venom was the whole reason for me wanting to get back into the Marvel Universe. I'm really becoming addicted to VENOM and I can't wait for the next issue.

Yours truly,
Tia

We're so happy you found VENOM, Tia, and we can't wait for you to see the next issue, too--and hope you find even more Marvel Comics to enjoy soon!

To the geniuses behind VENOM: SPACE KNIGHT, I have been huge fan of Venom, like many other fans, since the thought of him appeared on paper. It's his ability to make you love him and hate him, his unpredictability and versatility in many different storylines. That being said, there have been a few times I was disappointed in the use of this iconic symbiote. This is NOT one of those times. The wide range of emotions you've caused has me in love. The writing, the artwork, and the imagination are top-notch. When I thought it couldn't possibly get any better, I read issue #10 and you bring back someone I felt was lost in the history of Venom, MANIA! I can't wait to see what's to come.

Justin Sacks
Mansfield, MA

Well, we're glad we didn't let you down, Justin, and are thrilled you were as happy as we were to see Mania back where she belongs--in a Marvel comic book! Let us know what you think of what happens next!

Thanks, Robbie! And thanks to all of you amazing Venom fans! Keep the letters coming, hearing from all of you means the world to us, and we'll see you next month for the symbiotastic conclusion to VENOM: SPACE KNIGHT!

Stay Weird!

Jake T.

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS *NEXT?*

VENOM SPACE KNIGHT #13